

County Government Samuel G. Smith Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas County.

The vote having carried in the election of 1891 to remove the county seat from Huntersville to Marlinton the vote stood for removal 940 against removal 425, immediately plans were made for a new court house and jail at the new county seat, but they continued to hold court at Huntersville while new quarters were being built, all records remaining at Huntersville, this special election to determine whether the county seat should be moved cost Pocahontas County \$ 194.60. Immediately plans were made to start the construction of our present court house and jail, and plans were submitted by The Manley Manufacturing Company of Dalton Georgia for our present court house but in the meantime it was thought best to erect a temporary court house at Marlinton so it was built 1892 and moved into in 1893. The stone or masonry work was done by Albert Gunther the building rock coming from the Jerico and Price Hill sections which were so famous for their building rock at that time. M. F. Giesey was the architect and inspector of the stone work. Our fire proof vault was bought from The Office Specialty Company of Rochester New York and installed by their representative along with the contractors.

Much of the time of the court at that time was spent holding special elections pertaining to removal or in letting contracts for construction of our present set of County buildings of which the citizens of Pocahontas are proud and justly so as we have one of the best court houses that

County Government. Samuel G. Smith. Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas Co. Page 2-
built at that time. The jail having been rebuilt in recent years until today we have one of the best jails in West Virginia, as it is modern in every respect and one that is safe and used for federal prisoners from other sections of the state. After the records had been removed from Huntersville it was deemed advisable by our County Court to sell this property as we had no further use of it so the late L.M. McClintic was appointed by the court as a special commissioner to sell this property so in 1894 it was offered for sale the high bidder being R.S. Turk for \$ 825.00 thus ending county ownership at the old county seat.

No doubt the first bowling alley ever to operate in Pocahontas County was operated in 1894 by A.C. Gunther at Marlinton the license being issued by the county court.

Our County Clerks and Circuit Clerks having operated together up to this time in the same office were separated in 1893 each having separate quarters. No doubt Dr. J.W. Price was the first member of the board of health of Pocahontas County. Pocahontas Countys' first drug store was licensed by the county court in 1893 the license were issued to Cunningham And Smith.

During the time the county owned and operated a poor farm near Hillsboro different men rented it for prices ranging from \$ 150.00 to \$ 250. they in turn were paid by the county from \$ 30.00 to \$ 40.00 for each pauper

fed each month, this farm having served a noble service during its' county ownership. It was in 1896 that the Pocahontas Telephone Company received permission from the county court to set their poles along the then county roads, this was the beginning of what might be called the contact period of this county for from this grew lines over the greater part of Pocahontas. It was in 1897 that our present Justice Of The Peace T. S. McNeel was admitted to the bar in Pocahontas County, after serving as a lawyer for his fellow countymen he was elected Prosecuting Attorney at the beginning of the Nineteenth century and since that time has served as a Justice from Idray District for a number of years.

In 1892 the late Andrew G. Price was admitted to the bar in Pocahontas County, he having graduated from West Virginia University, he served his county for a number of years as a lawyer of renoun, he being the son of one of the pioneers that settled at Marlins Bottom, he was editor of the Pocahontas Times for a number of years, this paper is now being edited by his brother G. W. Price, the only other paper published in the county was the Messenger published by S. B. Scott Jr. and these papers one or the other printed our election ballots at that time.

The annual county levy was about the same until 1894 when the court house was built but at this time the levy was .50cts on each 100.00 valuation